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Nik Aziz-Singapore

BATU PUTEH: NIK AZIZ SUPPORTS NON-CONFRONTATIONAL APPROACH

KOTA BAHARU, Dec 27 (Bernama) -- Kelantan Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat has expressed support for Malaysia's non-confrontational approach in resolving the issue on Pulau Batu Puteh which is also claimed by Singapore.

He said the problem should be resolved amicably and without any hard feeling because the use of force would only lead to war.

"There is no question of a confrontation because the island belongs to Malaysia rightfully," he told reporters at his residence, here today, when asked to comment on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's statement that Malaysia should refrain from taking a confrontational approach in resolving the issue over Pulau Batu Puteh.

He said Singapore should recall history as the Federation of Malaya had sovereignty over the island whereas Singapore then was part of Malaysia.

"The island is our property, no one else can lay claim on it," said Nik Aziz, who is also PAS spiritual leader.

He likened Singapore's claim over Pulau Batu Puteh as "a thief who never admits that he is a thief".

"Robbing and stealing have become a normal thing for people who are irresponsible," he said.

When asked on PAS' stand on the matter, Nik Aziz said that when it concerned the country's sovereignty, the party should also join forces to defend it.

--BERNAMA

WM AO